Easy Real-Time Online Collaboration Using TogetherJS

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Why Real-Time Collaboration?

- Creates a more intimate sense of a class community.
  - Brings students and instructors together in a more immediate way than discussion groups or email.
- Creates a more personal connection between instructors and students.
  - Students want (need) to feel that instructors care about them.
  - Real-time responses enhance that feeling.
- Flexibility
- Real-time issue resolution.
  - The most important reason for real-time collaboration.
Real-Time Collaboration Options Overview

There are four basic technologies that are used for real-time collaboration.

- Text chatting
- Audio communication
- Video
- Desktop/application sharing
There are dozens of software applications that may be used for real-time collaboration.

- Internet Relay Chat and instant messaging applications
- VoIP applications (Skype, etc.)
- Web conferencing systems (WebEx, etc.)
- Google
- Learning management systems
Instructors need to make wise choices when deciding how to implement real-time collaboration in an online course.

- Ease of use is paramount.
- Reliability
- Cost
- Bandwidth requirements
- Operating system compatibility
  - Browser-based with no plugins or Java is best.
- Freedom
- Less is better (features)
TogetherJS

- [https://togetherjs.com/](https://togetherjs.com/)
- Add text chat and audio (experimental) to any web page.
- Collaborate using interactive JavaScript applications.
- Free software (open source) JavaScript library by Mozilla.
- Simple to implement.
  - Self host or use Mozilla’s servers.
- Simple to use.
- TogetherJS documentation: [https://togetherjs.com/docs/](https://togetherjs.com/docs/)
<!doctype html>
<html>
<head>
</head>
<body>
<script src="https://togetherjs.com/togetherjs-min.js"></script>
<a onclick="TogetherJS(this); return false;">
</a>
</body>
</html>
My Goals

- Text chat with link support.
- Collaborative whiteboard.

http://srandby.org/together.html
TogetherJS is a service for your website that makes it easy to collaborate in real-time on:
Easy Real-Time Online Collaboration Using TogetherJS

This is a test

Join TogetherJS session?

Your friend has asked you to join their TogetherJS browser session to collaborate in real-time!

Would you like to join their session?

No, don't join  Yes, join session
\[ \int_{0}^{1} x^2 \, dx = \frac{x^3}{3} \bigg|_{0}^{1} = \frac{1}{3} - 0 = \frac{1}{3} \]
This is a test

\[ \int_0^1 x^2 \, dx = \frac{x^3}{3} + C \]